



State of Tennessee Department of Education

ELL Students and Tennessee Assessments

The purpose for including our student population of English Language Learners (ELL) in our Tennessee assessments is to help ensure that children who are limited English proficient, including immigrant children and youth, attain English proficiency, develop high levels of academic attainment in English, and meet the same challenging State academic content and student academic achievement standards as all children are expected to meet; and to assist all limited English proficient children, including immigrant children and youth, to achieve at high levels in the core academic subjects so that those children can meet the same challenging State academic content and student academic achievement standards as all children are expected to meet. All students are expected to achieve to the same high standards in Tennessee. English Language Learners (ELL) will be included and held accountable within the following guidelines:

For spring 2006, all districts shall annually administer all sections of the English language proficiency assessment, the Comprehensive English Language Learning Assessment (CELLA) to all English language learners. The CELLA is the required annual language proficiency assessment. The CELLA will be used to meet federal requirements for Title III AYP purposes. The regular TCAP Achievement reading/language arts and math assessments, Gateway Language Arts, and Gateway Math will be necessary for Title I accountability purposes. All ELL students must participate in the administration of the CELLA, and the Achievement reading/language arts and math assessments, Gateway Language Arts, and Gateway Math at the minimum.

Other state assessments such as TCAP social studies and science may be taken by ELL students. School districts must make appropriate decisions for exemptions on these other assessments on an individual needs/abilities basis. After the annual assessment of English Proficiency using the state approved language proficiency assessment (CELLA) is given, ELL performance at any level that is less than Fluent English Proficient (FEP) on any subtest could generate a decision of exemption for other TCAP assessments. However, the school must determine and document these exemptions on an individual student basis. **All students, including ELLs, are to participate fully to the extent practicable.**

ALL ELL students grades K-12, even first year ELLs, are required under NCLB to take the language proficiency assessment (CELLA). All ELL students, even first year ELLs, are required under NCLB to take the TCAP Achievement reading/language arts and math assessments, Gateway Language Arts, and Gateway Math. Schools shall designate ELL students who have been in an American school less than a full school year by filling in the "ELL Exclusion from AYP determinations" bubble. This bubble is located on student answer documents for grades 3-8 and Gateway Language Arts. The State will remove the first year ELL students' scores from AYP determinations as allowed under NCLB.

There is no blanket exemption of ELLs. Exclusions must be individually determined based on a student's English language proficiency, as documented by the state approved language proficiency assessment indicating level of proficiency, and first year enrollment in a U.S. school.

At the end of the first year of enrollment, all ELLs are expected to take all state mandated assessments.

2005-2006 English Language Learner (ELL) Accommodations

Accommodations		TCAP Achievement	TCAP End-of-Course (EOC) / TCAP Gateway	TCAP Writing Assessment	CELLA	Required Conditions for Accommodations
Q	Extended Time¹	Time and a half per subtest	EOC – Time and a half per test Gateway – NOT APPLICABLE – Untimed	Time and a half	No Accommodations allowed	ELL <i>and</i> Score as limited English proficient on CELLA
R	Bilingual Dictionary	Not allowed for Language Arts, Reading, Spelling, Word Analysis and Vocabulary subtests	Not Allowed for EOC English I and Gateway Language Arts	NOT ALLOWED	No Accommodations allowed	ELL <i>and</i> Score as limited English proficient on CELLA
S	Read Aloud in English Internal Test Instructions	All subtests	All tests	All tests	No Accommodations allowed	ELL <i>and</i> Score as limited English proficient on CELLA
T	Read Aloud in English Internal Test Items	Not allowed for Language Arts, Reading, Spelling, Word Analysis and Vocabulary subtests	Not Allowed for EOC English I and Gateway Language Arts	All tests	No Accommodations allowed	ELL <i>and</i> Score as limited English proficient on CELLA

*All students are eligible for Allowable Accommodations, as needed, on any TCAP Assessment. Special Accommodations are available for students with an IEP or 504 Service Plan.

*Transitional ELL students who have tested proficient on the state mandated language proficiency assessment and are in the two required years for monitoring are not entitled to ELL accommodations and should be coded only as T1/T2 on the TCAP answer document.

Note: Questions regarding required conditions for use of ELL Accommodations should be directed to the TN ESL Coordinator at (615) 741-3262.

¹ If the student uses both ELL and Special Accommodations, Extended Time is determined by the IEP Team or 504 Review Committee.